

Docket No.: ECKARDT-6
Appl. No.: 10/783,904

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Currently amended) A drive controller for a self-commutated converter having two half-bridges with converter valves, said drive controller comprising:
 - two control circuits having each an input and an output, wherein the ~~input~~ output of one control circuit is operatively connected to one of the half-bridges with its converter valves, and the ~~input~~ output of the other control circuit is operatively connected to the other half-bridge with its converter valves;
 - first switches connected between a voltage supply and the inputs of the control circuits for switchably connecting the inputs of the control circuits to an external voltage;
 - second switches connected electrically in parallel with the first switches in one-to-one correspondence, said connected first and second switches being decoupled from each other by decoupling diodes and forming a set of decoupled switches; and
 - control units providing control signals to the connected first and second switches so as to alternatingly switch the connected first and second switches on and off.

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2. (Original) The drive controller of claim 1, wherein a first set of the decoupled switches is electrically connected in series with a second set of the decoupled switches, and wherein the series connection of the first and second sets connects the inputs of the control circuits to a common external voltage.
3. (Currently amended) A drive controller for a self-commutated converter having two half-bridges with converter valves, said drive controller comprising:
 - two control circuits having each an input and an output, wherein the [[input]] output of one control circuit is operatively connected to one of the half-bridges [[with]] for triggering its converter valves, and the [[input]] output of the other control circuit is operatively connected to the other half-bridge [[with]] for triggering its converter valves;
 - a circuit assembly having an output supplying a DC voltage to the inputs of the control circuits, said inputs of the control circuits being connected in parallel;
 - two switches, with each switch having an input connected between an external voltage and an output connected to an input of the circuit assembly;
 - and
 - control units providing pulsed control signals to the switches [[so as]] to control the switches in a pulsed operating mode so as to maintain the DC voltage at the inputs of the control circuits if one of the two switches is in an open position.

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4. (Currently amended) The drive controller of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 13, and further comprising two circuit assemblies, with each circuit assembly separately supplying a DC voltage to a corresponding input of the control circuit of a half bridge, and with one of the switches providing the external voltage to an input of one of the circuit assemblies that is operatively connected with the one switch, and the other switch providing the external voltage to an input of the other circuit assembly that is operatively connected with the other switch.
5. (Original) The drive controller of claim 3, wherein the circuit assembly supplying the DC voltage includes a rectifier, and wherein a potential separation device is connected before the rectifier and a support capacitor is connected to an output of the rectifier.
6. (Original) The drive controller of claim 5, wherein the potential separation device is a coupling unit.
7. (Original) The drive controller of claim 6, wherein the coupling unit is an inductive element.
8. (Original) The drive controller of claim 6, wherein the coupling unit is a capacitive element.

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9. (Original) The drive controller of claim 4, wherein the circuit assembly supplying the DC voltage includes a rectifier, and wherein a potential separation device is connected before the rectifier and a support capacitor is connected to an output of the rectifier.
10. (Original) The drive controller of claim 9, wherein the potential separation device is a coupling unit.
11. (Original) The drive controller of claim 9, wherein the coupling unit is an inductive element.
12. (Original) The drive controller of claim 9, wherein the coupling unit is a capacitive element.
13. (New) A drive controller for a self-commutated converter having two half-bridges with converter valves, said drive controller comprising:
 - two control circuits having each an input and an output, wherein the output of one control circuit is operatively connected to one of the half-bridges for triggering its converter valves, and the output of the other control circuit is operatively connected to the other half-bridge for triggering its converter valves;
 - a circuit assembly having a rectifier with an output supplying a DC voltage to the inputs of the control circuits, said rectifier including a potential

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separation device connected before the rectifier and a support capacitor connected to an output of the rectifier;

two switches connected between an external voltage and an input of the circuit assembly; and

control units providing control signals to the switches so as to control the switches in a pulsed operating mode.